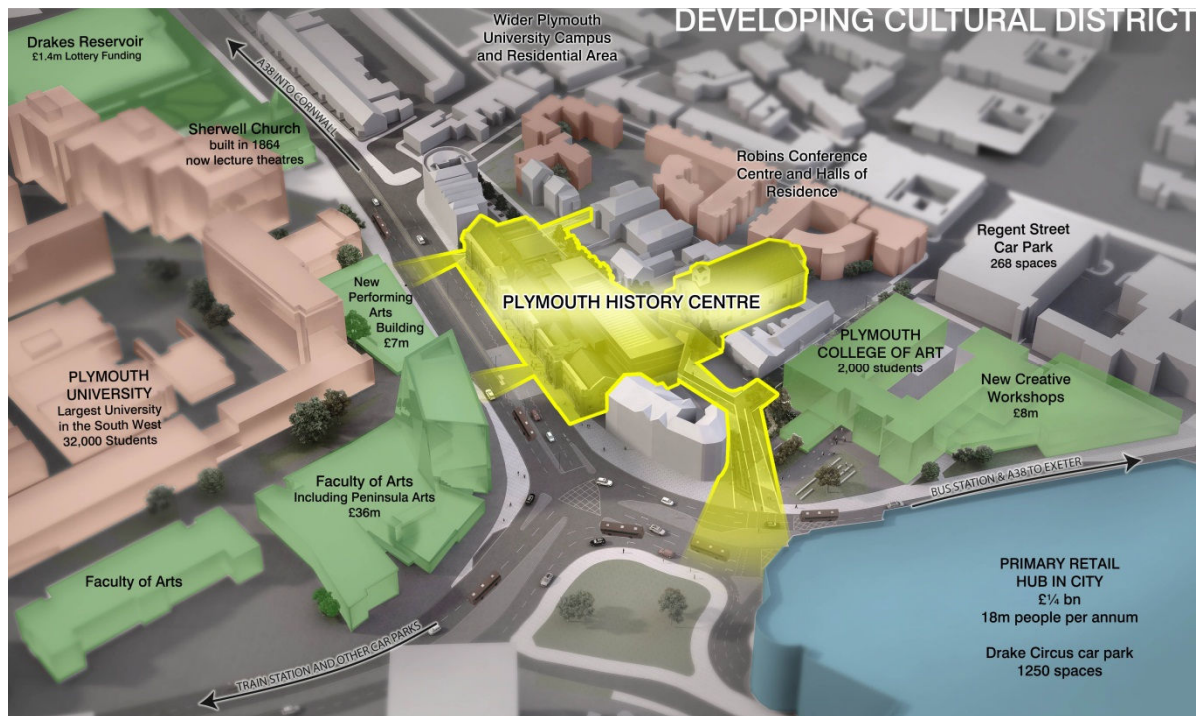


Plymouth International History Centre

Love Our Past, Step into the Future



The Vision

The Plymouth International History Centre is a £24m scheme in the heart of Plymouth.

The vision is to transform the existing museum and art gallery on North Hill into a cutting-edge cultural centre three times its existing size, which will open in time for the Mayflower 400 commemorations in 2020. Situated between the University and the College of Art, the Centre will form the heart of the city's developing cultural quarter and act as an inspiration for those who live in, work in, study at, or visit Plymouth.

Led by the City Council, the project is a partnership with the University, the South West Film and Television Archive and the South West Image Bank. Partnership discussions are also being held with Plymouth College of Art and the Naval Heritage Centre, Devonport. Together the partners want to create an organisation that includes three integrated elements:

- The Museum of Plymouth - a museum and its collections reaching out to the world through telling stories about Plymouth's past, present and future.
- Plymouth Contemporary – the city's key location for contemporary visual arts exhibitions and events
- Archives South West Study Centre - an accessible regional archive available for research into the history of the area, its people and family origins

The scheme will see the restoration of the fine architecture of the existing museum and art gallery and central library, the creation of additional spaces with a contemporary extension, and the refurbishment of St. Luke's Church.

This ambitious project also brings together five of Plymouth's most valued collections under one roof for the first time, as part of a major new visitor attraction.

The Collections

The South West Film and TV Archive and the South West Image Bank, together with the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office, will join the historic collections which belong to the Plymouth Museum, Art Gallery and the Local Studies Library, available for research all on one site.

The Spaces

The new History Centre will provide approximately 4,300sq.m. of refurbished space in the existing Grade II listed museum and library buildings and St Luke's Church on Tavistock Place.

It will also include around 2,700 sq.m. of space in a new extension to the rear of the library building.

This will mean much bigger and better exhibition areas; some adjacent outdoor areas for programming related events in the public realm; and facilities for the visiting public, including study spaces for students and leisure and commercial outlets for visitors.

Funding and Development

In May 2014, the partners were successful with their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £12.9m. The City Council has also committed £5m., leaving a remaining funding target of £6.1m.

Applications for major funding will be made when appropriate, amongst others, to Arts Council England, the LEP's Regional Growth Fund and the Wolfson Foundation. Visits to the site by the Arts Council have been particularly encouraging.

The History Centre is now in its development phase. Detailed plans are currently being prepared that will be presented to other potential funding partners. A Stage 2 submission will be re-presented to the HLF in April 2016.

In October 2014, Atkins, one of the World's leading design, engineering and project management firms were appointed to oversee the technical and architectural design for the centre.

The interpretative masterplan has been developed by Ralph Appelbaum Associates. A brief for the Exhibition Designers will be issued in January, with an appointment expected in March or April 2015.

Black Radley Associates have undertaken some initial mapping of the Organisational Development requirements.

A visual arts strategy will be developed in the New Year with support from the Plymouth Culture Board.

Risks

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Key Actions</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Securing a new location for the central library (permanent or temporary)	A vacant History Centre building by March 2016 to allow enabling works to begin	Options appraisal of available buildings to house the library HQ and lending library Remedial works to preferred building Decant of library collections	To be completed by January 2015
Securing a temporary location for the Museum collections	A vacant History Centre building by March 2016 to allow enabling works to begin	Options appraisal of available buildings with appropriate space, security and environmental conditions Remedial works to preferred building Decant of museum collections	To be completed by January 2015 Tight timescale within plan
Securing an additional £6.1 million capital funding	To be resolved by submission date of Stage 2 to HLF in April 2016	ACE grant application by December 2014 Wolfson stage 1 application January 2015	Initial discussion – capital scheme not open until autumn 2015 at the earliest
Keeping the partnership in place around a coherent integrated vision	Throughout	Regular partnership meetings with University, SWFTA, SWIB and potential new partners: MoD and College of Art	Black Radley Associates appointed to assist process
Listed building & other issues	To be resolved by submission date of Stage 2 to HLF in April 2016	Ensure English Heritage are engaged at all levels Begin negotiations with Diocese over covenant of St Luke's Church Listed building consent and planning application to be submitted by October 2015	Initial briefing done
Public Realm	Urban design issues resolved associated with Tavistock Place and North Hill	Close liaison between Planning Department and Design team	
Potential cost over-runs	To be resolved by submission date of Stage 2 to HLF in April 2016	Regular meetings with Design teams and a strong client, robust approach to costs	

Mitigation of Risks

- Work-streams have been established for all areas of work, a Programme Director has been appointed and progress is regularly monitored at Programme Board meetings. None of the risks are currently scored as higher than amber.

Conclusion

The History Centre concept has been very successful in bringing together some key partners and collections at risk and in attracting major funding from national sources. It is generating considerable interest from potential other partners and funding bodies. It is on track to be delivered successfully in time for the Mayflower 400 commemorations.

Paul Brookes
8.12.14